



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

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St. Mary's Academy to present "Bye Bye Birdie"

Portland, Ore. – Feb. 8, 2012 – Poodle skirts, cardigan sweaters and Converse sneakers will help transport audiences to the late 1950s when St. Mary's Academy presents the musical "Bye Bye Birdie."

The show opens Feb. 24, and with 58 students appearing on stage, it's the largest cast the school has had in the past decade. A technical crew of more than 30 students is working behind the scenes to help bring such popular musical numbers as "Put on a Happy Face," "The Telephone Hour" and "Honestly Sincere" to life.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, said St. Mary's Academy Theatre Director Shannon More.

"I choose 'Birdie' for its nostalgic feeling and its broad audience appeal – there is something in this story for everyone," she said. "It is a feel-good show with lots of singing and dancing, and it takes us to a time when being young meant being cool, hip, alive and free."

"Bye Bye Birdie" centers on teen heartthrob Conrad Birdie (played by visiting student actor Ben Larson). When he is drafted to war, his manager arranges a farewell kiss for one lucky fan club member on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Lucky girl Kim MacAfee (senior Camille Phillips) is chosen, but the hype surrounding the farewell kiss creates chaos in her little town.

Performances are offered at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 25, March 2 and 3 and 2 p.m. Feb. 26 and March 4 at St. Mary's Academy, 1615 S.W. Fifth Ave., Portland. There is a special reception for St. Mary's Academy alumnae on Feb. 25 beginning at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, available at the box office and online (\$12.25 for adults and \$10.20 for students and seniors online).

For more information or to purchase tickets online, please visit the Theatre Department's website, http://www.stmaryspdx.org/student_life/theatre.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Albright, Director of Communications, at 503.721.7715 (direct office), 503.984.2777 (cell), or maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in the heart of downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education with a focus on developing the whole person. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and offers a supportive learning environment to a diverse student body from more than 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the only school in the state to have received three Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit www.stmaryspdx.org.